



The ACA Group is an alliance of operations and supply chain experts.

Operational Performance Improvement Newsletter

Strategies for Improving Business Performance

March, 2017

 Send to a Colleague

Welcome

We are excited that we have some new ideas to explore with you this month.

Let's start with 5S plus 2 - read it and find out how to go beyond the norm in your lean journey. Also, we explore what it means to be a supply chain professional and how to be successful. Stay tuned for a few strategies from a long-term supply chain expert.

As the first quarter closes, we'd also like to probe about performance in the first quarter. Did you achieve your targets? Have you invested in professional development? How about in best practices to improve your business, your department or your career path? There is quite a bit of excitement about the future of manufacturing and distribution. Are you poised to take advantage of these opportunities?

We look forward to your feedback. Please [contact us](#) if we can help you raise the bar in terms of efficiency, profit, cash flow, growth and service.

5S Plus 2

By Mike Letson, CPIM, CSCP

Many folks are familiar with the lean principle of 5S where the bottom line is: "Everything has a place and everything is in its place." These steps originated in Japan as part of the journey towards a visual workplace. Translated they are Sort, Set in Order, Shine, Standardize and Sustain. A quick explanation of these would be:

1. Get rid of what you don't need and keep what you do
2. Now you know what you have so organize it

The ACA Group Partner Spotlight



3. Clean and inspect it so it works when you need it
4. Evaluate and improve, stay consistent where it makes sense to
5. Keep it up because it works.

5S is a proven methodology of creating and maintaining an efficient and effective work space. Over the years, we have evolved, the world has changed and we follow a continuous improvement way of life. In regards to 5S, we've added two more...

The Sixth S - Safety

The questions I get here are, "Shouldn't safety be considered in all aspects of the first five S's?" My obvious answer is yes but it needs to be emphasized more. I often hear that safety is a priority, yet it is frequently overshadowed by actions when the pressure is on. Lost time at

[Read the rest of the article](#)

Mike Letson

CPI, CSCP, Certified Scrum Product Owner, Lean Six Sigma Green Belt and DMAIC Black Belt

Focused on developing leadership skills for business improvement.

Mike Letson has variety of leadership experience working with Fortune 500 companies as well as small and medium-sized business across a multitude of industries. He has served key roles in supply chain management, manufacturing operations, repair and overhaul, quality and sales.

[more](#)

Professionalism

By [James P. Strong, CPIM, CPM, CSCP](#)

What it Means to be a Professional in Supply Chain Management



In a recent strategy meeting of our local APICS chapter, we stated our primary Mission as: "We Develop Professionals".

APICS is an international professional society that has become a recognized source for education and certification of Supply Chain and Operations Management professionals. As a chapter, we hold "professional development meetings", provide "professional" training courses, seminars, and workshops, and offer "professional support" for our student chapter. Often we hear people say "he or she is a real professional", but what does that really mean?

Service Focus:

Supply Chain Management

Deliver Bottom Line Results

Our view of the supply chain is from our supplier's supplier to our customer's customer inclusive of all elements in-between. It's no wonder executives are turning to their supply chain leaders to find out how to:



- Compress lead times
- Elevate service and delight customers
- Improve margins & profitability
- Accelerate cash flow
- Increase productivity and profitability

We partner with our clients to

Professionals such as doctors, in their white coats, or, policemen, or football players, or even waitresses in uniform are identified by what they wear.

Some professionals like doctors, lawyers, engineers or MBA's hold a "professional" degree in their field of endeavor identifying as a professional.

Sometimes people in business are described as "professional" based on their appearance; how appropriately dressed, well-groomed or clean-cut, they are.

[Read the rest of the article](#)

achieve results and align sourcing with business objectives!

Learn More [here](#).

The ACA Group: Additional Resources

Access [The ACA Group](#) library of materials on [Enterprise Resource Planning](#), [Organizational Development](#), [Lean Enterprise](#) and [Supply Chain Management](#).



UPCOMING EVENTS

APICS-SFV Physical Inventory/ Cycle Count Workshops

April 4, 2017
Valencia, CA

APICS-SFV Value Stream Mapping Workshop

April 7, 2017
Valencia, CA

APICS-IE Spring Executive Panel & Networking Symposium

Navigating the Global Supply Chain

Saturday, May 6, 2017
Corona, Calif.

APICS-IE Certified Logistics, Distribution & Transportation (CLTD)

Saturdays starting June 10th
Corona, Calif.

APICS 2017

October 15-17, 2017
San Antonio, Texas



The ACA Group is an alliance of operations and supply chain management experts who partner with organizations to improve business performance



The ACA Group

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STAY IN TOUCH



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